

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PONTA 00082 030413Z

16

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 077406

R 312056Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1090

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T PONTA DELGADA 0082

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: DESKOFF CONVERSATION WITH JOSE ALMEIDA

REF: A. STATE 67972

B. PONTA DELGADA 069

1. WITH OFFICIAL SUSPENSION ALL ACTIVITIES MARCH 16 IN
FACE OF GOVERNMENT AND LEFTIST PRESSURE (REF.B), MAPA EFFECT-
IVELY CEASED TO EXIST. WE DO NOT IN ANY CASE BELIEVE THAT
ALMEIDA WAS SPEAKING FOR MAPA BUT FOR NUNO CAMARA. SO-CALLED
MAPA MILITARY ARM IS UNDOUBTEDLY CAMARA "INDEPENDENCE
MOVEMENT" AND AS RECENTLY AS 1 MONTH AGO ALMEIDA AND CAMARA
TOLD US MAPA LEADERSHIP WAS UNAWARE THAT GROUP EXISTENCE.

2. IDEA OF INDEPENDENT AZORES HAS CERTAIN APPEAL
THROUGHOUT ARCHIPELAGO, ESPECIALLY SAO MIGUEL, BUT I SENSE
THAT INDEPENDENCE GENERALLY REGARDED AS "GOOD" AND THEREFORE
DESIRABLE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY ENTHUSIASM FOR IDEA
OF FIGHTING FOR INDEPENDENCE EXCEPT AMONG RELATIVELY SMALL
GROUPS SUCH AS CAMARA'S. THERE ARE NO POPULAR LEADERS HERE;
MOTIVES OF PEOPLE LIKE ALMEIDA, WITH TIES TO OLD REGIME,
AND CAMARA, WHO HAS LARGE PROPERTYHOLDINGS, ARE SUSPECT
AMONG POPULATION AT LARGE. AZOREAN ATTITUDE THROUGHOUT EVENTS
ON CONTINENT ON APRIL 25, SEPTEMBER 28, AND MARCH 11 WAS
ONE OF HOPING FOR BEST AND DOING NOTHING. THERE IS
HIGH DEGREE OF PROBABILITY THAT SAME ATTITUDE WOULD PREVAIL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PONTA 00082 030413Z

SHOULD ALMEIDA AND CAMARA GROUP LAUNCH LOCAL COUP AND

THAT ATTEMPT WOULD THEREFORE FAIL. IN ABSENCE POPULAR UPRISING
THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT EVEN AZOREAN TROOPS
WOULD OPPOSE REBELS BY ALL MEANS AVAILABLE, ESPECIALLY IF ATTEMPT
PRECEDED BY TERRORIST ACTIVITY SUCH AS BLOWING UP TELEVISION
STATION.

3. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND AGAINST ENCOURAGING ALMEIDA AND
CAMARA WHO WITHOUTSUCH SUPPORT ARE UNLIKELY
ATTEMPT COUP WHICH IN OUR VIEW WOULD IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES
ALMOST CERTAINLY BE UNSUCCESSFUL. WE CAN NOT EMPHASIZE STRONGLY
ENOUGH THAT WHAT EVER SUPPORT THIS GROUP MAY HAVE IS CONFINED
LARGELY TO SAO MIGUEL ISLAND AND THAT TERCEIRA
ISLAND IN PARTICULAR IS NOT LIKELY TO FOLLOW SAO MIGUEL'S
LEAD. WE SEE INTERNAL SUPPORT, THAT IS, WILLINGNESS
TO FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE HERE ONLY IN RISE OF
SOMEONE REALLY POPULAR LEADER WITH CLEAN HANDS, PREFERABLY
FROM SOME ISLAND OTHER THAN SAO MIGUEL. NONE SEEMS PRESENTLY
IN THE OFFING. DANIELS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, POLITICAL STABILITY, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PONTA00082
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750114-0647
From: PONTA DELGADA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975032/aaaaabjj.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 67972
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <22 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DESKOFF CONVERSATION WITH JOSE ALMEIDA
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, (ALMEIDA, JOSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006